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BULL-ETIN

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Meets first and third Fridays at 7:30 P.M. at the Red Cross Building, 90 Brees St. ALL who have an interest in amateur radio are cordially invited to attend.

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Walker Talks Again, Same Song Second Stanza

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Prose Walker, W4BW, ex-Chief, Amateur & Citizens Division, FCC, made the keynote address to Summer Convention, Texas VHF-FM Society at Temple, Tex., Aug. 2. We were able to tape the entire session and will endeavor to bring you highlights of his talk which pertain to Docket 20282. de W5BGE)

1) As Jack Mason told you I am no longer with the FCC, so I can speak with complete freedom. However, I don't suppose I should, or will, say anything that will be embarrassing to myself or to anybody who still works for FCC. Without a doubt, I guess the docket 20282, the docket restructuring the Amateur radio service, is the most important action to come before Amateur radio since we got back on the air after World War I. Seven months after the issurance of the docket, Amateurs are still talking about it, which is good. The ARRL has finally submitted their comments to the Commission, which is good. I understand the more they delved into it, the more the impact they found it had upon Amateur radio, right across the board, not just in the area of HF or VHF. I have been requested to discuss this docket and without really delving into a great many of the details, I shall attempt to give you some of the basic philosophy which led up to the issuance of the docket. At this point, let me congratulate the Texas VHF-FM Society on the comments you submitted on this docket. I haven't read all the comments that were submitted because over 2000 comments, an all-time record, probably for any proceeding before the Commission ever received, I think your comments, in a reasonably few pages, reflected your feelings.

2) The Commission proposed a dual-ladder structure, when relating to VHF and above, and the other to HF and below. I think it reflects the facts of life as it exists in the Amateur service. There are Amateurs of course who are primarily interested in the upper frequencies, those that are primarily interested in the high frequencies, others of course, as always, Amateurs interested in all of them. In this respect, I think it is good that there was a meeting ground for Amateurs who are interested in the two main frequency aspect of Amateur radio. I think a portion of the 10 meter band would be a good place for them. There must be a place where VHF and HF Amateurs can get together to exchange ideas. We must keep in mind of course to do this, the code requirements of the ITU radio regulations below 144 mHz must be kept. This would preclude the future of the Communicator class license from operating on 10 meters.

(Continued on Page 5)

Technical Topics

By W5LFM CAL GRAF

At the last "Show and Tell" meeting of the SARC, a number of projects were shown by the members. Among those were a frequency counter, an RF pre-amplifier, and a light sensitive audio oscillator. I'll describe the latter in detail as it might be of interest to some members.

The Sonalight is a battery-operated, hand held audio oscillator which changes frequency according to visible light intensity variations. The greater the light intensity, the higher the frequency of the oscillator; the lower the intensity, the lower the frequency of the oscillator. Hence, the name Sonalight, sound from light. The Sonalight can be used in a number of experiments involving changing light intensity as bright as the sun or as dim as starlight in a dark sky.

As show in the circuit diagram, the popular IC chip the 555 timer is used as an audio oscillator to drive a small speaker. One of the resistors in the circuit used to determind frequency is a cadmium sulfide (CdS) photo cell which changes resistance value according to the average intensity of light striking it The greater the amount of light the lower the resistance of the photo cell, and vice versa. It is sometimes known as a light resistor.

The 555 timer, which is used in a number of modes such as timers, frequency divider and missing pulse detectors, is operated in the astable oscillator mode where the free running frequency and duty cycle are both accurately controlled by three external resistors (R1, R2, and R3) and one capacitor (C). The external capacitor charges through R1, R2 and R3, and discharges through R2 and R3, where R2 is the photo cell The lower range of frequency, approximately 1 pulse per second, is set by the value of R2, about 10 megohms, when the photo cell is almost totally dark. The upper frequency range, approximately 17,000 pps, is set by the photo cell in bright sun light when the resistance is less than about 100 ohms. In this case, R3 (10K) is used to set the upper audio limit as a nominal 6,500 pps as R3 is in series with R2. This frequency range is within the hearing capability of most people whereas 17 khz can be heard only with near perfect hearing.

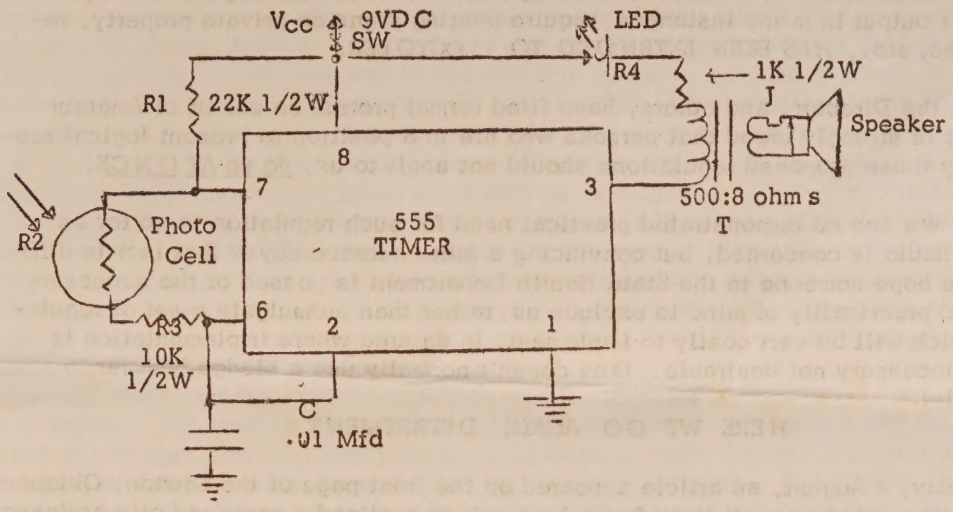
A loud speaker is used to provide an audio output and a light emitting diode (LED) is used as a pilot light as well as flashing on and off when the frequency is below about 10 to 12 pps. About about 100 pps, the pulse output sounds like a tone to the ear. Above several hundred pps, the tone sounds like a sine wave. The output pulse is a positive going square wave and an audio pulse is heard each time the LED is turned on and off. For the value of resistors shown, the on-to-off duty cycle is about 60%. Above about 15 pps, the LED appears to be on constantly. The current drawn from the 9-volt transistor battery is 4 ma. at a nominal 6.500 pps and about 7 ma. below about 1000 pps. The Sonalight consumes a small amount of power as it is off about half the time. The Sonalight is built into a small plastic case so that it can be hand held. The speaker, LED, and an earphone jack are mounted on top of the case. The photo cell is placed on the front side of the plastic case so it can be aimed at a light source.

The Sonalight is extremely sensitive, especially toward the dark end of the photo cell resistance range. The unit can detect lightning many miles away at night, providing a rapid frequency increase with each flash of lightning. It can be used with a flash light at night as a simple optical radar showing angular direction to a light reflecting object such as walls, trees, and fences. Direction and height to the object can be determined when the unit is scanned back and forth by hand. Approximate distance to the object can also be determined.

A portable intrusion detection device operating off ambient light is had by setting the Sonalight where the light from a street lamp or sign is interrupted when a person or vehicle passes to break the beam. Passing autos may also be counted by observing the rapidly increasing signal frequency caused by the headlights as the car drives by the Sonalight. At night, a car can be detected 2 to 3 blocks away. Small changes in light level can be easily detected by the Sonalight as the ear is extremely sensitive to small changes in frequency (up or down) but the ear is less sensitive to changes in amplitude level. The Sonalight, a light sensitive, battery-operated, audio oscillator can be assembled for less than 10 dollars and it will cover an audio frequency

(Continued on Page 3)

range of 1 pps. to 7,000 pps. If R3 is omitted (or switched out), the upper frequency range produced in bright sunlight is almost inaudible, approaching 15-18 kpps. A number of other uses for the Sonalight can be found as you have occasion to use it. Call me at 344-5032 after 1730 any day if you would like additional info on the Sonalight. Regards for now. Cal Graf W5LFM.



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ALAMO DX AMIGOS

By Bruce Woodard W5OSJ

The Friday, July 25th meeting was held at the shack of Corky WB5CIT with a good turn out. Several new members signed up, with membership now at about 21. Pete Vann HS1AGQ gave quite a run down on the SE Asia situation with emphasis on Thailand. Real interesting view into the other end of the DX spectrum and politics. Also guesting was LU4AEF, Ed from Buenos Aires.

The Alamo DX Amigos Explorer Post at Churchill headed up by Bill K5TSR and assisted by Harry W5KCR, Jim WB5ETY and Jimmy W5JC is going great guns with 13 members (5 licensed, including 1 advanced and 4 novices, 2 who just took their general and 3 who have passed the novice code exam). They are presently meeting on alternate Thursdays with an on-the-air net at 7140 CW, 7:30 PM in between. The kids come from all over the Northside of town. Check with Bill Parry for further info.

Our President, Les W5BE, took a spike in the heel from a small rattler or copperhead and is laid up for 6-8 weeks recuperating. Plans for getting up his recently acquired Telrex monster 20 meter monobander have been shelved for the time being, but when it does go up, keep your fire extinguishers handy in case he swings it your way.

KH6 "Blooming Zipper Flipper", our "Onary" member from Kaneohe advised he had received his Alamo DX Amigos special plaque (a baked fancy lettered tortilla) dreamed up by Ed W5OSH and lettered by Danny VP2VB. He's gonna mount it in a cigar box with glass on both sides and hang it in his shack. The club made Lee an offer he couldn't refuse, which he accepted, details of which may or may not be made public at a later date.

Although predictions continue to be glum, the Palo Verdes sunspot dancers seem to have been producing some activity with the spots. Leastways there have been some significant groups of spots appearing lately, some good early morning 20 meter long-path openings, and a few late afternoon L.P. shots into the Pacific. Maybe the bottom is in sight--Think Sunspots!

Sure helps to have some good technical types in the group. Old master Harry W5KCR recently fired up a 75A3 for Bruce W5OSJ on loan from John W5LPO and it works like a champ. He may have met his match now though, trying to revive an old Hammurland HQ120 for Bruce that over the years has been reduced to a pile of bailing wire, chewing gum and bottle tops--the HQ120, not Bruce (or vice-versa).
John, "Low Powered Oscillator", our earstwhile secretary has been galivanting around the country in his new super-equipped van trying to work DX on repeaters--Hi.
That's it for now--come visit or join up--check our 2 meter tip-off net at 146.49 or call John at 696-1879 for info. 73, Bruce W5OSJ.

COMMENTS FROM THE ARRL WEST GULF DIVISION DIRECTOR

FLASH FLASH

Word has been received that deadline for comments regarding the Texas Health Department proposed Non-ionizing Radiation Regulations, which would grant the State of Texas jurisdiction over Amateur Radio operation (licensing, inspection, regulation of power output in many instances, require posting signs on private property, require fees, etc., HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 1 OCTOBER.

Although the Director, and others, have filed formal protest on behalf of Amateur Radio, it is strongly urged that persons who are in a position to present logical reasons why those proposed regulations should not apply to us, do so AT ONCE.

Frankly, we see no demonstrated practical need for such regulation in so far as Amateur Radio is concerned, but convincing a state bureaucracy of that fact is difficult. We hope someone in the State Health Department is possed of the necessary logic and practicality of mind to exclude us, rather than promulgate a set of regulations which will be very costly to implement, in an area where implementation is neither necessary nor desirable. One doesn't normally use a sledge hammer to swat a fly!

HERE WE GO AGAIN DEPARTMENT

On Monday, 4 August, an article appeared on the front page of the Lawton, Oklahoma Constitution titled Council Eyes Radio Law, which outlined a proposed city ordinance aimed at taxing, registering, and further regulating all CB and Amateur Radio operators and was scheduled for Council action the following day, presumably with no public notice beforehand!

The ordinance would (1) Require all CB and Amateur Radio operators and owners to obtain a license from the city, and (2) payment of a fee, effective that same day!

We are informed the ordinance was prepared by Lawton police officer John Stowe and the City Attorney's office. The City Manager, John Thompson reportedly stated both parties feel it "may be extremely difficult to enforce." But, he added, "It is their feeling the proposed ordinance will be a good attempt in that direction." (whatever that means, ed).

The ordinance would require us to register, and provide name and address, complete description of our radio equipment (including serial numbers), address of the base station, assigned call letters (if radiated power is more than 100 milliwatts, and proof that applicant has complied with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing operation of such stations. Additional, the license would be issued on the condition that any officer or agent of the city "so assigned" could enter the radio operators premises to "inspect" his equipment! Shades of Adolph Hitler!

Fortunately, Lawton Amateurs Brad Wheeler, K6BVU/5, SCM Cecil Cash, W5PML, and Col Holley, W5FKL, Okla. State MARS Director, learned of the proposed ordinance contacted city officials immediately, and managed to get the proposal quashed before it came to a vote. Whew! That was a close one!

The moral to this story is that every Amateur must become increasing alert to such fantastic and fatalistic attempts by ill informed local entities to take away privileges granted to us by the Federal Government--take immediate action to alert prominent local Amateurs, and notify your ARRL Director, as soon as possible.

HERE WE GO AGAIN -- CONTINUED

We continue to receive information of Amateurs who buy, or lease, in areas where a covenant in the pruchase agreement prohibits erection of external antenna structures, despite my oft repeated warnings to investigate the existance of such covenant prior to purchase or lease of real estate. Please remember, a covenant is a part of the contract, even though it is not included in the wording of the transfer document. As such, the purchaser, or leasee, agrees to its conditions.

Bob Booth, our ARRL General Counsel, informs us it is far more difficult to negate covenant provisions than it is to void a city ordinance or zoning law.

Be sure to have your attorney investigate, before you buy or lease.

73, ROY L. ALBRIGHT, W5EYB, WEST GULF DIVISION ARRL DIRECTOR.

PROSE WALKER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 1.)

3) Various types of structures for the Amateur service could be proposed and in some of the comments there have been quite a number of variations, variations of the dual-ladder structure--and variations of the single-ladder structure which has been proposed by the ARRL--I am glad to see your society felt the dual-ladder structure was the correct one. The license structure which will be adopted by the Commission will have a definite impact on the end result. I know that the Commission desires to choose the correct way to resolve this matter, keeping in mind, while other services have been increasing over the past few years, Amateur radio has been decreasing, it seems to have leveled off at the present time, but should it continue to go down, I think the Amateur service in respect to the allocations which it now holds in the spectrum, would be in some serious difficulties. With the World Administration Radio Conference staring us in the face in 1979, the number of Amateurs throughout the world is all more important. So the number which the new structure brings is important. Now some argue whether we should be concerned primarily with numbers or whether we should be concerned with quality; quality rather than quanity. These people indicate that larger number of Amateurs would increase the interference level in the Amateur bands without making any significant contribution to Amateur radio and the objectives which we all strive for. That may be true to some degree. We have had a structure for some time which apparently has not resulted in the right kind of incentives to build Amateur radio bigger. I believe that the future of Amateur radio demands that our numbers increase. The quality index of those who come later and come into Amateur radio as a result of docket 20282 will be jointly the responsibility of the Commission and the Amateurs and the way they handle the people who come into the service. Your education, your training through your clubs, your organizations and whatever type of national organization, all of these are terribly important in respect to this quality index of people who come into Amateur radio in the future, particular the Communicator class.

4) Our 220 band in some areas of the country is fairly utilized but no where near the capacity that it should be utilized. I understand the reason for this as well as you do--the class E band citizen service which has been hanging fire. I am happy to tell you that two weeks ago I went to Ottawa, Canada, to discuss, among other things, with the Department of Communication there, a possible resolution of the class E service. You will be glad to know that Canada does not want it in the 220-225 mHz Amateur band. The thinking at the present time, and the Canadians concur, the class E citizens band, PERHAPS, can be placed in the spectrum from 218-220. There are some drawbacks to that, cause it is just next door to the Amateur band. This should provide a ready source of equipment for 218-220 and that same equipment could also work on 220-225.

5) In the matter of power, we thought that this docket was the right place to change it. I think power is in somewhat of a confused state. The Commission proposed, for example, in the Communicator class, 250 watts input power. I think that is too high for the Communicator class, too high for the Novice class. Most of your communications where you have repeators is done with far less power than that. I think that most of the rationale for proposing 250 watts was simply some one could go out and buy a rig and these being the types which could run 200 to 250 watts. They reasoned a Novice could go out and buy one of these rigs and in all likelyhood, even tho he is restricted by the rules of 75 watts, the chances are he would run it at 200 to 250 watts anyway, so why not let him go ahead and do it. The Novice bands on 80 and 40 meters are shared with the Canadian phone bands and the Canadians are very concerned about the American Novice being permitted to go up to 250 watts power. The Canadians, rightly or wrongly, feel that this is their phone band. I tried to discuss with them what if U.S. felt that way about this band and suppose we said, well, if you guys won't stay out of our phone band, we will expand our phone 50 kc on down, say 14,200 down to 14,150, which by the way has no part of this restructuring proceeding, even though ARRL introduced it. The Canadians use Amateur radio a little different than we do. They have a lot of hinter lands up there, the frozen north--up there it is a communication service for the large part of the year.

6) Should we measure input or output power, should we measure average power, peak envelope, or what? Through HR Report, I asked for comments on how to measure power. I wound up with a file about a foot deep. Most of these were pretty good discussions on the measurements of power. The more I looked at the comments, the more I think we ought to leave it as it is now.

(Continued on Page 6)

PROSE WALKER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 5)

7) I think that the Communicator class gave more people more concern than any other aspect of that docket. Everybody is mindful of the fiasco we have had in the citizens band on 27 mHz for some time. If it is anybody's fault it is the Commission. Cause the Commission for years and years ignored it. In the first place they made a lousy decision when they put it at 27 mHz. When the band is open, you just can't expect a guy to just sit there and hear somebody in Melbourne, Australia, or whatever, and not call him even tho he is illegal too. There isn't anything that has generated more problems, more unhappy discussions, and heated discussions up at the Commission in the last four years than the CB problem, it is nothing at this point that the Commission can solve. I don't know, I don't see how they can. I think the only solution for cleaning up the citizens band, lies not in the hands of the Commission, but in the hands of the CBers. I think the only way you can do it is to have the same kind of an organization of CBers that we have in the Amateur ranks and get them organized and eventually over a period of time--PERHAPS--clean it up themselves. The Commission is just not constituted to act like a police force when they get a complaint, to dash out and find the culprit--they can not do it. They don't have the people, they don't have the equipment, they don't have the budget and they don't have the interest in Washington to see that they do it. Now Amateurs do not want that same kind of situation in the Amateur bands. What was bothering me a little bit, maybe not as much as it should, is discussions that I have heard at Commission meetings up in Washington about the restructuring and especially the Communicator

"....Look, it is going to siphon off the yakker and the hobbyist in the citizen band and bring him over into the Amateur band!"

class. I hear people sitting on the bench up there talk about that this is a great thing: "....Look, it is going to siphon off the yacker and the hobbyist in the citizens band and bring him over into the Amateur band!" If this is what they have in mind is to get rid of it over here and put it over into the ranks of the Amateur radio service, then I say, it's a lousy deal. I don't suppose we are going to know how it is going to work until we try it. I think the chances are 99.9% that you are going to have a communicator type license. I personally believe that the sucess of this experiment, and make no mistake about it, it is an experiment, the sucess will depend on several facets. Location in the Amateur band above 144 mHz where the Communicator is permitted to operate and with what modes, and what emissions I personally believe you ought to let him in 146-148 and a part of 220-225. If you isolate this man you are going to have troubles. The degree of whether this works or not, is whether he is accepted into Amateur radio. That is going to determine the way all Amateurs and especially the American Radio Relay League pays attention to this fellow and to insure that he trully becomes an Amateur. I believe that the comments of your Society was that we should permit the Communicator to operate in the repeater portion of the 2 meter band and also a portion of the 220-225 band. I personally agree with that point of view.

8) Now let us switch just a little bit down to the World Administration Conference. This will be a complete overhaul of allocating spectrum from 8 or 10 kc to--I don't know. This Conference will be held in Geneva in 1979. At the present time in the U.S. all services are preparing recommendations to submit to the FCC and Department of State to what the requirements of their services should be as far as the U.S.'s position is concerned. The signpost of time, particularly in respect to the upper portion of the spectrum, are such we should look to our housekeeping, in relation as to how we use the spectrum. In respect to my part in docket 18803, I had in mind the day when we would be negotiating the HF and VHF spectrum with other users in this country, especially in preparing the Amateur's position to be incorported in the U.S. position that goes to the ITU for the 1979 Conference. In the HF portion of the spectrum, we are in pretty good shape regarding the recommendations. We are

(Continued on Page 7)

PROSE WALKER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 6)

not that far along now on VHF and above so that we could make a recommendation. We have had this group set up now since the 8th of May. I personally believe that we have had more expertise in the Amateur group preparing our position to go into this recommendation for the U.S. position than any other preparatory group for any service in the U.S. I have had the pleasure of being chairman of it up to last Friday The next meeting of this group (I am not sure yet whether I am going to be with them or not) is on the 12th of Sept. which coincides with the National ARRL Convention. I say I don't know because when I handed in my suit the other day, the Commission asked me if I would like to continue to head up the Amateur preparation for WARC. I thought that maybe that was a nice thing to do but we got to talking about it and all of a sudden I discovered they wanted me to do it but did not want to pay me. So I am not sure I am going to be a part of it in the future or not. The next four years which takes us up to 1979, the World Administration Conference is going to be the most crucial ones, certainly in Amateur radio for many and many a year. Whether you are a member, supporter, or non supporter, or what have you, of your national organization, the ARRL, and I am not on their payroll, however you view the situation you should support those who are trying to do something for Amateur radio and you should not support those who are trying in a nefarious way to tear apart for their own stupid, selfish gains--and you know who they are.

9) Look beyond your antennas and see yourself as others see us, particulary as those in other countries. Keeping in mind, over in Africa, there are 43 votes in ITU Administrative Conference. Each of which counts just as much as that of the U.S. The task of the ARRL, the only national organization you have got, (I don't agree with everything they do, but I am a Life Member) should be that everything they do for the next four years should be directed toward the 1979 Conference. They are taking part in the preparatory work. Give them your support, all that you can, so that in 1979 we will have as united a front in the Amateur service in the world as it is possible to get. How can a nation, for example, who has only 15 Amateurs rationalize its own thinking to say that Amateurs in my country should have 500 kHz on 10 mHz. We are asking for some new bands now. We want to get 160 meters back, from 1730 to 2000, and there is a good chance we can get it, Loran A don't need it. Loran A is to be phased out in 1980 and the OTP recommends that the band be given back to the Amateur service after 33 years. We would like to get rid of the sharing of 80 meters in Region II which the Americas are sharing with the fixed and mobiles in Latin and S. America. We would also like to preserve the width of the band, 3500 to 4000. 40 meters, you know what we want to get rid of there, the HF broadcasts. Even more than that we want to expand the band a width of 500 kHz. I don't think this is impossible, because the HF portion is opening up. We have had new expansions in submarine cables and we have a new communications service that uses satelites. We also are going to recommend that we have another band on 10.5 to 11 mHz. We are going to recommend the expanding of 14 mHz to 14 up to 14.5 and get rid of the sharing around 14.250 to 14.350 for the fixed service over in Region I, principally the Soviet Union. We want another band at 17.5 to 18. We want to expand 21 mHz out to 21.5 and move the HF broadcasts up 50 kc. Then we want another band from 24 to 24.5. Leave 10 meters alone and if we are able to get this in the U.S position, just think what we would have in the HF portion, bands about every 3 mHz. What's going to happen in 1979, only time will tell.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

10) Question--What is FCC's view on type acceptance?
Answer--The current thinking of the Commission is that it may be useful to type accept commercial made Amateur equipment, with the provision (which must be incorporated) that there be no prohibition modifying this equipment once he gets it. This has nothing to do with an Amateur building a new piece of equipment and putting it on the air. I will not be surprised if you see a notice of proposed rule making in the future.

11) Q.--What do you think is the source of pressure being put on for the citizen class E license?
A.--For a long time I thought the pressure was coming from the Office of Telecommunication Policy to the Commission. A few months ago I had a long chat with one of the boys at OTP and I asked him where is the pressure coming from? He said: "It is coming from the guy who used to be chairman of the FCC, Dean Burch. Dean

(Continued on Page 8)

PROSE WALKER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 7)

Burch put the heat on us and when Tom Whitehead who was head of OTP resigned, the guy who became acting director of OTP, John Eager, who used to be Burch's legal assistant when he was chairman of FCC. So you got the same kind of a heat situation from one to another. The heat came from FCC on to OTP, not the other way around." I believe what he said.

12) Q.--Has your sucessor been appointed?
A.--No, he has not been appointed and I do not have a clue who he might be. I have had an assistant for 3 years. His name is Dick Everett. He is an attorney, not an Amateur and knows the intricacies of the Amateur and citizens division probably better than anybody else does because he has been around there for about 16 years. He told me Friday that he didn't know if he is going to apply for the job or not.

13) Q.--I would like your views on the deal we have in Texas with the Health department on radiation?
A.--It is none of their business. It seems to me they are getting into something, in the first place, I don't think they know they are doing. Secondly, I question whether they have any jurisdiction over it. It is something you people should fight down to the last ditch, because it is an awful bucket of worms for them to get into.

14) Q.--What is the latest reading on the automatic ID?
A.--You are talking about the automatic transmitter identification system, docket 20355. It isn't going anyplace very fast. It was put together by a committee and you can't find anyone around the Commission today that admits he knows anything about it.

15) Q.--Is there any target date on the restructuring docket?
A.--Let me tell you what is happening to the Amateur and citizens Division. First, you know I am out. I was in that job for 4 years and 3 months. The Commission has two branches in it, one branch deals with facilities, that means licensing of the citizens and Amateurs primarily. The other branch is called the Rules and Legal branch and these are the people who are responsible for notices of proposed rule making, notices of inquiry, respond to petitions, writing reports and order, and taking into consideration requests for reconsideration. In these 4 years I have been there we have never really had a branch chief in charge of facilities and licensing and that includes the Gettysburg office. The Rules and Legal Branch has been empty almost 2 years. As I look back at it, it is a wonder that we have been able to do as much as we have. You ask me what is the finalization of docket 20282 and frankly, I just have to look at this sort of a decimated little group, they are low on the totem pole in the bureau and the bureau is low in the Commission. The Commission is composed mainly of bureaus and offices. There is the Broadcast Bureau, Common Carrier Bureau, Cable Television Bureau, the Office of Chief Engineer and the Safety Inspection Bureau. The Amateur and citizens Division is low among all divisions in the Safety Inspection Services Bureau. So I can't be very optimistic about their resolving this thing very quickly. After all they have got some 2000 sets of comments. I will be surprised if the report and order is written before the end of this year, if not next year. As far as the effective date, it will either have to be on a piecemeal basis, or they are going to have to real quick get some additional people in the division who know how to write examinations. Cause you have got to come up with some new examinations. In your series B you have got a Communicator license and Experimentator license. You can't possibly put those things into effect until some new examinations are rigged and printed. We reprinted a few of the Amateur examinations in the last 2 years and at one time it took us almost 7 months to get them.

16) Q.--What are they going to do about the Conditional license--are they going to call all of them in?
A.--I can't answer that question. That's a decision that's got to be made in the future as a part of this docket.

17) Q.--I would like for you to give views on how, as Amateurs, we can police these CBers who come up to the Communicator class band.
A.--As I said before, number one, the ARRL has got to recognize the potentials of the difficulties which may arise as the result of Communicator type license. Everyone of these guys who get a license, the ARRL should go right out and take him by the collar, figuratively speaking. The ARRL should have a list of every single

(Continued on Page 9)

PROSE WALKER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from Page 8)

Communicator that gets his license. They ought to do something other than send him an invitation to join the League. I think they have got to give him some special concentrated attention and if they don't do that, we may be on the way to trouble. The rest of it, I think, will be up to the Amateur, how they take him in tow and teach him. If you find a guy is going to jump the traces amd become a detriment to Amateur radio, eight or ten of you go over and talk to him some night. Tell him that he is no longer in the citizen band, you are now in the Amateur band. In the Amateur band we do it this way. I hope that this works, if it doesn't, then turn him into the Commission.

18) Q.--You said this docket was an experiment. Did I read into this that if we did get into some troubles with the Communicator or problems that resulted from the docket on dual ladder, is it possible that it would be phased out and we go back to the single ladder.
A.--I understand how you might have read that into what I said but I didn't mean it that way. I think it would be very difficult once you get started on a Communicator type of license. I don't think of a similar case that has been turned around once it got started.

19) Q.--Is there any chance of a change in the 50 mHz band?
A.--There may be a chance for a change to the worse. It has been proposed that there be some juggling of the low band TV bands to create other TV channels and there will be some adjustments, maybe abolishing the 6 meter Amateur band. I don't see anything in the immediate future, even tho it has been proposed.

20) Q.--Will there be a special call sign for the Communicator?
A.--I have no doubt about it.

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AN EDITORIAL

By W5BGE Dean Davis

The effects of the Commission's proposals on Docket 20282 will be felt by every Amateur licensee, some will be most severely and adversely affected. ARRL, in developing its position on Amateur restructuring has had the benefit of a unique position as the only national organization representing literally every activity and interest which is manifested in the Amateur Radio Service. More than 100,000 individuals in the United States are members of the League, and more than 1300 local radio clubs are actively affiliated. A mail survey of the entire U.S. membership was conducted to which a majority of members--more than 56,000 responded. From these reponses the League Board of Directors, along with the expertise of the headquarters staff, were in the best position to make a searching analysis of the Commission's proposals.

In Prose's opening statement, at the Texas VHF-FM meeting at Temple, we heard him praising the Jack Mason/Ted Bensinger authored Tex. VHF-FM Soc. reply 20282. We remembered last year that Jack was also praised for an editorial that he had just written for the Society's bulletin, at the Irving meeting. Inasmuch as the Society's reply, in essence, agreed with Mr. Walker, the Architect of Docket 20282, it was due praise from him. What influence the Society's reply--or Mr. Walker himself--will have on the future Commission's decissions we may never know. This we know, Jack is no longer an officer of the Society nor is Prose on the staff of FCC.

We definitely got the feeling throughout Prose's talk that he was putting down ARRL--or putting them on the spot to make work the "bucket of worms" he had opened. (Ref. paragraphs #1, 3, 7, 8, and 17 of the highlights of his talk.)

You will notice (paragraph #2 of the highlights) that Prose states that it would be goc to have a meeting ground for the dual ladder deal. Where? On 10 meters, of course according to him, a place to exchange ideas! This would sure be a great frequency to meet together on if we had a hurricane or disaster in Texas--ridiculous! Or is the meeting place to be a social gathering point? Is the idea practical? NO!

Prose has used the lever that the Amateurs are a dying group, but (para #3) he does

(Continued on Page 10)

AN EDITORIAL (Continued from Page 9)

admit that it is leveling off at the present time. He does not mention that concurrently with the lose of Amateurs there was a $9 license fee imposed. All this did was to eliminate the deadwood. Now that the fee is down to $4, it is leveling off and increasing. Walker is trying to whip us in shape by telling us that we need large numbers to influence the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979. YET (para 9) he tells us that in Africa there is 43 votes, everyone just as good as the U.S.'s one (some countries with less than 15 Amateurs.)

In paragraph #4 we find out how much influence Canada has on the Commission, maybe we should write them to arbitrate in this dual structure bit and see what happens.

We become aware (para #7) that FCCactually knows what is going on in the CB band-BUT it looks like NOW they have a solution: ".....Look, it is going to siphon off the yacker and the hobbist in the citizen's band and put him over into the Amateur band!" Prose thinks that it is up to ARRL to make this Communicator class work by taking them in tow, along with the Amateur's help. But down in paragraph 17 he says if this doesn't work, get you about 10 of the ugliest and meanest looking Amateurs and go out and talk to him! Practical. Again NO! That doesn't work. It has already been tried here. The guy said he had bought his transceiver from Lafayette and he had a receipt for it. So he was going to do as he pleases. The Houston office of FCC "promised" to write this guy a letter! How can one go over and tell one of these guys, who already consider themselves experienced "communicators", how to or , not to, operate in the Amateur band. At the Temple meeting we found out that in many areas in Texas they have already started moving in--since they don't need a license to operate CB, why should they worry about it on 2 meters. The "good CBers" already have Prose's "invitation."

For a CB viewpoint on this we refer you to May-June 1975 copy of Elementary Electronics. Please read Kathi Martin, KGK3916, column entitled, "Kathi's CB Carousel." It is a two page article which describes in detail what they understand the Communicator license will be. A highlight of the article follows: "The FCC has proposed changes in Amateur radio licensing. Among their proposals is one for a 'communicator license' which, if read carefully, is CB. The communicator's license will be code-free. Reading the proposal futher shows a simplified test for the communicator's license which appears to be not much more than a few basic questions on rules and procedure, much as for a restricted third class radiotelephone for marine radio. In short the communicator license will be yours for the asking." Also included in this article were pictures and discriptions of Lafayette and Regency 2 meter equipment, along with a vivid description of her own operation on 2 meters, using REPEATORS!

In reading Prose's answer (para #15) on the target date on the restructuring docket, you wonder why--when they are so short-handed--that they ever let Prose talk them into Docket 20282 in the first place. Prose admits that it will be difficult to make work and he hopes that ARRL and the Amateurs will put their shoulders to the wheel and make it work anyway! The Commission cannot enforce the rules they have at the present time.

It is ironic that FCC, who made such an uncontrolled operation of 27 mHz would now foist that mess onto us Amateurs, using the feeble pretext that we need greater numbers. We note that when questioned, Mr. Walker attempted to allay fears of what might happen to 2 meters, should Communicators be given unrestricted use of all frequencies above 144 mHz. Fact is, the proposal specifically states they were to have that privilege, and 250 watts to boot; with absolutely no consideration of the undoubtedly fatal effect on our moon bounce, satellite, and other weak signal experimentation. Obviously such wide range of vision can occur only at a high bureaucratic level!

Rumors were floating around heavily Friday night at the meeting. One was that Prose would serve as a consultant to FCC, with the question immediately following: "On his payroll." Jack emphatically assured us that he would be on FCC's payroll--but paragraph 12 tells us different. My suggestion is that ARRL should hire him--AT ONCE!--before the electronic industry does. Hi. One can't help but feel that the electronic industry, in their greed to sell more gear, is the tail that is wagging

(Continued on Page 11)

AN EDITORIAL (Continued from Page 10)

the dog and forcing the Commission to shove down the throat of the Amateur this new structure with the hope that it will open up a new market for them. From the Aug. 22 HR Report we read that the E. F. Johnson Co. second quarter financial results demonstrate just how great the CB explosion really is. Sales are up 54% over 1974 while net earnings are up 73%. It isn't hard to see why Johnson's president, Dick Horner, has been the leading CB lobbiest and PR man in recent months. If there is any sort of a theory examination--at least comparable to the Novice--for the Communicator class license, the electronic industry may not find it such a gold mine at all--unless these guys just move in without a license, as they have already started doing (some legitimately buying their gear, others with "hot" gear, which we think was stolen by mistake thinking it was CB equipment.) These "communicators" will probably be like a pebble that was thrown into the water, they will be wet on the surface but will never become a part of the water.

We note that Prose (and the Tex. Society FCC response) accept the premise there will be a new class of license (Experimenter). Like all other surveys, this one dodges the issue on some important points. We wonder what the response would be if questions like the following had been included?

"Since current Technicians, Generals, and Conditionals will have sharply reduced privileges which will require upgrading to Experimenter to avoid loss of those privileges (exam to be more complex than the current Advanced), do you favor introduction of Experimenter class license? YES__NO__

Perhaps we are confused, but we are at loss to understand how the authors of the Tex. VHF-FM Society comments to FCC concerning Docket 20282 arrived at the conclusion that Communicators should be granted unrestricted use of repeater frequencies on 2 meters. In fact, the only pertinent reference we find in the survey is Q 27 which, with survey results reads:

"If you think the privileges are too generous, would you favor reducing available bandwidth, access to repeaters, or both? Or, do you have another idea? Jot it down.

The replies were: "Band width 73.3; Repeaters 57.3; Other 18.6."
To us, this response is a far cry from the assumption that the majority of Society members are in favor of permitting Communicators full use of all 2 meter repeater frequencies, or any portion thereof.

We recommend all Society members take advantage of Mr. Mason's offer to furnish a copy of the Society response to Docket 20282, AND READ IT.

All in all, there was very little difference in this talk than the one a year ago--you can refer to Sept. BULL-ETIN, 1974--except that in 1974 he was Chief of the Amateur and citizens Division.

We were impressed by the atmosphere which prevailed during Prose Walker's talk. Even tho there were desenting moans and groans during this time, backed up by opinions expressed Friday night, the Amateur kept their dignity and showed great respect for a prominent fellow Amateur and the position he had held with FCC.

de W5BGE.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In order to give you other views on the Prose Walker talk, we have asked all SAers who attended to write their thoughts on the speech. A radiogram was sent to Terry Turner W5ETG who replied: "Sorry, am unable to comply, my comments are unprintable!" Gene Jank W5EJT only comment was: "Now that the Society has given Walker a cowboy hat and cowboy boots, all he needs now is a 'pikup' truck and a gun rack to become a 'real' Texan." The following responces to my request were received:

COMMENTS BY LARRY HIGGINS W5QMU

It was indeed poor timing that Prose Walker was forced to stand in front of us just two days after his retirement from the Federal Communications Commission.

Speaking at the 10th anniversary convention of the Texas VHF-FM Society in Temple, Texas, W4BW feebly defended his proposed dual ladder licensing structure. Although our state VHF-FM Society supported the concept of a separate ladder for VHF-FM er's it should be pointed out that two of the directors dissented and sent personal com-

(Continued on Page 12)

W5QMU's COMMENTS (Continued from Page 11)

ments. I was one of them, as you know from my editorial in the Spring '75 issue of Texas VHF-FM NEWS. In that editorial, I suggested a VHF novice class as an answer to those who wished a codeless entry into the amateur radio frantenity. I pointed out that the real communicators are on HF, and that we VHF er's very much need the input of those who have HF experience.

What always bothered me about Prose were his early statements he made in New York, where he seemed to be saying that 'better regulations make better amateurs.' Quoting myself, "Regulations don't make us interested in hamming. We have enough now. Why not a docket to simplify getting to be a radio amateur instead of a Byzantine maze of classes, steps and special call signs palmed off as incentives "

On the brighter side, I have been most flattered to have had an opportunity to meet Prose personally. He is indeed a really fine guy, and I believe he very conscientiously tried to put together a system of rules that would save amateur radio from encroachment by other services.

We here in San Antonio have felt for a long time that he may have been maladvised in many areas. Examples of such poor advice included the original prohibitions on repeater linking, the totally unrealistic requirement that control operators monitor and censor the content of messages, the lack of FCC field work prior to setting repeater power output levels, the logging requirements, several totally unnecessary kinds of licenses (one amateur license ought to be enough)...

As the League points out in its reply to 20282, the Commission has just got to stop writing regulations and requiring examinations every time an anateur wants to try a new mode or to perform an experiment. As I editorially opined in the summer of 1974, we have just too many requirements which are beginning to look more and more like commercial (H.A.A.T. calculations, STA's, etc.) will keep the commerical interests from our door. This is a most strange contradiction, in the light of his forceful espousal of our Basis and Purpose as an experimental, educational service in the public interest in Dallas in 1974. Prose and his staff seemed to have forgotten we lack the unlimited time that the paid paper shufflers have in large organizations. As a result, unreasonable requirements like 24 hour monitoring and fixed aux links simply tend to be ignored.

Looking back over our association with Prose Walker, I have two major regrets: First, that he refused to come to speak with us at the time that he needed our input the most--right after 18803. Second, that at no time were the Directors of our Society as a group able to sit down with him and really get into the meat of the amateur regulations. At meetings, I could never find him at a time and place where a substantive conversation was possible. This was not all his fault. I intend to recommend to our Directors that our next VIP invitee have a specific time to sit down with the elected representatives for VHF-FM in Texas.

Finally, he never said anything about the goings on in Citizens Band: They have their own 20282, but it's called 20120. We need to know because their invasion as "Communicators" is much less likely if hobby activity is allowed in CB.

Prescription for the new Chief of Amateur Radio and Citizens' Band Division: . . . . Throw out 18803 and 20282, provide a single paragraph description to cover repeaters remotely controlled, mobile or fixed. Let the licensee simply advise the District Engineer in Charge of the eventual system, but only after it has been in operation for 30 days (and thus has a reasonable chance of staying in the same configuration for the next 30 days). Create a VHF novice class if you must, but let the U.S. Civil Service examining stations give the exams since it cannot then be challenged as being illegally acquired. Require only logging of special networks, such as linked auxiliary links (identified on the air by basic station license). Allow all amateur stations whether primary, additional, secondary, or control aux link to use a single call (with multiple logs if that would help). Allow primary station license to be used portable as a temporary repeater license. It is simple as that, gentlemen.

de Larry W5QMU

(ED's Note: Larry W5QMU is a member of the Board of the Society, active locally and Texas wide in TIRS, member of SARC and SARO).

(More Comments Page 13)

OBSERVATIONS ON PROSE'S TALK By Robert G. Wheaton W5PKK

To myself and many others who heard Mr. Walker's speech at the Temple convention, we really didn't find much new. Anyone who attended the Irving convention, a year ago, or who reads at all, has probably heard most of it before.

We were advised of the seriousness of the upcoming frequency allocation conference, and our need to have a strong voice there to represent U.S. amateur radio.

We were told that the 220 Class E Citizens Band Docket is just about dead, that Canada objected (Mexico likewise, but no mention was made of their objection) and that the 118-220 MHz spectrum is now under consideration. Something may still happen on Class E, but hopefully, not in the 220-225 Amateur spectrum.

What is about to happen in the 220-225 MHz Amateur Assignment may not be much better. Mr. Walker, in the manner of a man clutching to his own private, technicolor dream, reported that in all likelihood, the Commission will issue a report and order on Docket 20282 during the latter part of this year, with a possible delay well into next year. It was his feeling that when this R&O comes, it will permit a code-free new class of license with REPEATER PRIVILEGES on both 2 meters and 220 MHz.

Mr. Walker imagines broad support for the dual ladder concept and the desirability of a 2 meter repeater privilege for this new class of amateurs. The groan when he mentioned Communicators on 2 meter repeaters was probably heard 'round the world. Walker also expressed his concern about the fact that many at the Commission are enthusiastic about the creation of a Communicator Class, which will siphon off those who have no bonafide need of CB Class D. He assured us, that before leaving, he tried to dispel that notion.

In my opinion, it must be remembered that Walker and his staff labored long and hard to consolidate the many petitions for rules changes into one Docket which he and his staff considered PERFECT. Any criticism of this baby can be likened to telling you that your kid is the ugliest one on the block....you know you're both handsome and you'd fight to prove it. Mr. Walker made repeated references to "my sterling leader". These gave this listener the impression that perhaps retirement age was not the only reason he decided to retire just now.

My guess is that the Commission will be unable to look at the Communicator Class as anything short of a panacea for the CB Class D problem. They'll also look for the best way to implement this new class with a minimum of impact on the established amateur service. Why Walker imagines such wide support for the dual ladder approach I cannot understand. A R R L members who replied to the survey gave a resounding NO to the dual ladder. I've heard only negative responses from all sources. The ARRL and many repeater groups have come out against the inclusion of a 2 meter repeater privilege for Communicators, as this would be an area of major impact.

As long as we amateurs are going to have to eat dirt and swear it tastes like ice cream the ARRL counter-proposal looks much more palatable and would appear to have broader support. It cut through all the hoopla and subterfuge of Docket 20282, would provice basically what 20282 is all about....a code free (or nearly so) radiotelephone license for VHF, and would do it with a minimum of impact to the VHF spectrum and none of the keelhauling 20282 would impose on the HF boys. All this and a little incentive too.

My bet is the R&O will closely parallel the ARRL counter-proposal. The Commissioners are too smart to turn down such a good deal. If it doesn't work out, (and it may well be another monster), they'll have the perfect scapegoat. After all, ARRL said that's what the amateurs wanted. de Bob W5PKK.

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SOME VIEWS ON PROSE'S TALK by W. C. Spenn WA5QVD

With the resignation of Prose Walker announced two weeks before the Texas VHF-FM convention, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. In fact, I'm still not sure exactly what Prose said in his address.

From talking to quite a few Amateurs since the convention, two distinct points seemed to come up. The first point seemed that Docket 20282 is "good medicine" for Amateur

(Continued on Page 14)

radio, and we should take willingly. After all, the FCC went to all that trouble to get all those special prefixes from the military, and therefore we are going to get them whether we like it or not.

Secondly, Prose Walker seemed to be in a dream world. He kept giving the impression that Docket 20282 will solve all of Amateur Radio's problems. After all, he wrote it.

As far as I'm concerned. I'll just have to wait and see, as well as get ready to write my Congressman again. It seems that it will be some time yet before I will be able to just do some hamming. de W. C. WA5QVD (Pres. SARO)

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COMMENTS ON CONVENTION AND PROSE WALKER by Neil Martin WA5FSR

The 1975 Texas VHF-FM Society Convention in Temple was both enjoyable and disappointing. As usual, seeing old friends from across the state and comparing notes was a lot of fun. The facilities in Temple were more than adequate, and the Temple group did an outstanding job in preparing ladies' activities.

The biggest disappointment was the apparent lack of planning and imagination by the seminar speakers. The impression was left with me that the program participants were informed just moments before they were to speak and had no time for preparation I wasn't overjoyed to have driven 130 miles to hear what sounded like extemporaneous presentations. While I realize the individuals who gave the talks are extremely knowledgeable and competent, I feel more time could have been spent on preparation

With regards to Mr. Walker's comments of the afternoon, I wasn't too disappointed in what he had to say because I had expected him to say very little with (even tho it took him 2 1/2 hours to do it.) I did resent, however, his implication that the Commission it self was responsible for the Docket 20282 and that he personally had little to do with it. Perhaps this was not what he was trying to say, but this was how I interpreted most of his comments.

As a suggestion for future conventions, I feel that program scheduling could be more diversified. Several seminars could be available at the same time so that the membership might attend those they were most interested in. I would also recommend that the keynote speaker not be allotted so much time on the program.
de Neil WA5FSR

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MY REACTION by Jim Wright K5CDT

My immediate reaction to the comments of Mr. Prose Walker, W4BW, before the recent Texas VHF-FM Society Convention in Temple was disappointment. He did not reveal much of anything that was not already know or suspected.

He made very obivous his strong support for the Communicator class license and the dual ladder system of licensing proposed in Docket 20282. His oposition to the ARRL counterproposal and his unwillingness to even consider it as an alternative came through loud and clear. In spite of his statement of pride in his ARRL life membership, he indicated little use for either the League or its counterproposal.

In his defense, he is a good speaker and a very likeable fellow; however, my personal opinion is that the Amateur Radio Service will be better served by his absence from the FCC staff. de Jim K5CDT

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